

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report

General Information

Date: 11/12/2021

Project Title: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase VIII: Statewide and Metro Habitat

Funds Recommended: \$7,438,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(k)

Appropriation Language: \$7,438,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a program to provide competitive, matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state, and national organizations for enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county metropolitan area and cities with a population of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made for activities required to fulfill the duties of owners of lands subject to conservation easements. Grants shall not be made from the appropriation in this paragraph for projects that have a total project cost exceeding \$575,000. Of the total appropriation, \$588,000 may be spent for personnel costs and other direct and necessary administrative costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants may not be used to establish easement stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting and fishing during the open season unless otherwise provided by law. The program must require a match of at least ten percent from nonstate sources for all grants. The match may be cash or in-kind resources. For grant applications of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall provide a separate, simplified application process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of natural resources shall, when evaluating projects of equal value, give priority to organizations that have a history of receiving or a charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee or a conservation easement, priority must be given to projects associated with or within one mile of existing wildlife management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. All restoration or enhancement projects must be on land permanently protected by a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual maintenance and protection of restored and enhanced habitat, by a conservation easement, by public ownership, or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority must be given to restoration and enhancement projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded under this paragraph. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report by the deadline and in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The commissioner shall provide notice of the grant program in the game and fish law summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kathy Varble **Title:** CPL Program Coordinator

Organization: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Road Box 20

City: St. Paul, MN 55155

Email: kathy.varble@state.mn.us **Office Number:** 651-259-5216

Mobile Number: Fax Number: Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Itasca, Kittson, Anoka, Crow Wing, Goodhue, Dakota, Polk, Scott, Lake, St. Louis, Olmsted, Ramsey, Stevens, Wright, McLeod, Fillmore, Otter Tail, Becker, Koochiching, Pine, Kanabec, Clearwater, Marshall, Martin, Hubbard, Isanti, Hennepin, Mower, Washington and Rice.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban
- Southeast Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

With the ML 2016 appropriation The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program awarded 54 grants, 22 of these grants were the metropolitan area. Over 27,900 acres were enhanced, 5,750 acres were restored, and 200 acres protected through these 54 projects. Thirty counties had CPL projects completed in them through 36 unique organizations. The average project for the ML 2016 grants was \$127,000, with few exceptions most projects were completed on time and many were under budget. Additionally, the awarded grant partners contributed over \$1.3 million in in-kind or cash match, far exceeding the 10% requirement.

Process & Methods

The CPL Program fulfills MS 97a.056 Subd. 3a, directing LSOHC to establish a conservation partners' grant program, encouraging and supporting local conservation efforts. \$6,850,000 of the appropriated funds was available for grants. This is a stand alone program but depends on the support and technical advice of local land managers, habitat and acquisition specialists, and support staff.

Grant activities include: enhancement, restoration, and protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. A 10% match from non-state sources is required for all grants.

CPL staff develop a Request for Proposal and Program Manual incorporating LSOHC priorities, solicit applications, work with applicants to submit scorable applications, oversee grant selection, prepare/execute grant documents, review expenditure documentation, ensure financial integrity, make payments, monitor grant work, assist recipients with closing out agreements, and prepare required reports. CPL staff complies with the Department of Administration- Office of Grants Management policies.

Application process:

A Request for Proposal/Program Manual was posted on the CPL website in August 2016. Document contains all grant program information.

Applications are submitted on the online grant application system. Applicants use the mapping tool in the application to map project sites. Applications are accepted until September 2016 for round 1 of all grant cycles. Expedited Conservation Project (ECP) applications and applications for less than \$25,000 have a shorter application form. The application system accepts ECP applications until funding runs out, but is designed for 5 rounds of applications. Traditional (statewide) applications were accepted once, Metro applications were accepted twice, and ECP applications were accepted one time.

Grant Selection Process:

CPL Grant Program Staff review applications for completeness. Technical Review Committees, selected by the Commissioner of Natural Resources, evaluate applications based on criteria below. A final score is given to all applications. Committees include representatives from the DNR, BWSR, UMN, USFWS, USFS, counties, and other local government and non-profit organizations. A final ranking committee of Directors of the DNR Divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Ecological Resources/Waters, and Forestry consider the technical review committee, division and regional DNR comments, and recommend projects and funding to the Commissioner. ECP grants are reviewed by CPL staff, using criteria established for each type of project, and make recommendations. Division of Fish and Wildlife leadership make final decisions. CPL Grant Program Staff work with grantees to complete financial reviews, grant agreements, and other paperwork. Work may not begin until grant contract is executed. Applications are evaluated on these criteria:

Amount of habitat restored, enhanced, or protected

Local Support

Degree of collaboration

Urgency

Multiple benefits

Consistency with current conservation science

Adjacent to protected lands

Full funding of project

Budget/cost effectiveness

Public access for hunting and fishing

Use of native plant materials

Applicants' capacity to successfully complete and sustain work

Project Reviews and Reporting:

Grantees submit annual accomplishment reports on forms provided by CPL staff, based on LSOHC report forms. Reports account for the use of grant and match funds, and outcomes in measures of wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat restored, enhanced, and protected. The report must include an evaluation of these results. A final report is required by all grantees 30 days after project completion.

CPL Administration Budget:

Grant administration costs total \$112,200, include salary/fringe for grants staff, direct and necessary costs, travel, supplies, and expenses. An Internal Service Level Agreement (SLA) is developed with MNIT to update/manage the online grant application system.

DNR Land Acquisition Costs:

Applicants are required to budget for DNR Land Acquisition costs that are necessary to support the land acquisition process for parcels to be conveyed to the DNR. These costs are billed to awarded grants on a professional services basis.

DNR Technical Support:

The Division of Fish and Wildlife provides ongoing technical guidance, helping applicants prepare grant proposals and meet requirements for working on state lands. Project development and oversight is provided by area managers and additional guidance is provided for land acquisitions.

Grantee Payment:

Grantees are paid on reimbursement basis, meaning payment is made to the grantee after work has been performed or materials purchased, but before the vendor is paid by the grantee. Grantees provide proof that work is completed or a purchase made to receive payment. Proof that the vendor was paid must be submitted to CPL staff before additional grant payments are made. Payment advances may be made for acquisitions with a signed purchase agreement. Partial payments are allowed. Funds are built into grants for required Legacy logo signage and forms of acknowledgement/notification including, but not limited to, local news advertisements announcing completion of grantees projects.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

All CPL project requests include a Natural Heritage Database Review, which addresses wildlife species of greatest conservation need, the MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

The CPL program has a Technical Review Committee that reviews and evaluates projects for sound conservation science.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

CPL works with partners all over the state, including non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal units of government.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

CPL is unique because the program works with over 200 organizations throughout the state. CPL also requires local investment in projects of at least 10% of the grant award.

What other fund may contribute to this program?

• N/A

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

Successful applicants include long term maintenance plans in their applications, which are considered greatly by the technical review committees.

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Antic.	Received	Leverage	Original	Final Total
				Leverage	Leverage	Source	Total	
Personnel	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$83,200	-	-	-	\$480,000	\$83,200
Contracts	\$6,850,000	\$6,850,000	\$6,190,700	\$685,000	\$1,313,800	Local match	\$7,535,000	\$7,504,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$500	-	-	-	\$25,000	\$500
Professional Services	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$12,100	-	-	-	\$36,000	\$12,100
Direct Support Services	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$11,700	-	-	-	\$42,000	\$11,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,700	-	-	-	\$5,000	\$4,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$7,438,000	\$7,438,000	\$6,302,900	\$685,000	\$1,313,800	-	\$8,123,000	\$7,616,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
CPL	1.0	1.0	\$83,200	-	-	\$83,200
Coordinator						

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

DNR calculator

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

One parcel was not acquired because the landowner backed out of the sale, one parcel appraised significantly less than the assessed (applied for) value, and another parcel was replaced by two parcels of lesser value, all of these acquisitions resulted in partners turning back funding. A restoration project received bids far above the estimates so the organization applied directly to LOSHC/OHF for funding, and several restorations and enhancements came in under budget. The personnel costs were significantly under budget because the program was efficiently run by one DNR staff member with minimal assistance from two other staff.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

• E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Туре	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	7	0	431	0	5,165	0	149	(AF)	5,752
Protect in Fee with State PILT	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	13	0	165
Liability Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	42
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance Total	0 0	2,147 2,154	0 0	21,451 22,034	0 0	2,366 7,573	0 0	2,006 2,168	0 0	27,970 33,929

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Туре	Wetlan d (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairi e (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Fores t (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habita t (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Fundin g (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	ı	\$50,000	-	\$552,700	-	\$855,700	-	\$1,168,800	-	\$2,627,200
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability		-	-	\$659,000	-	-	-	\$325,000	-	\$984,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	\$167,700	-	-	-	\$167,700
Protect in Easemen t	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	\$329,80 0	-	\$564,300	-	\$1,148,700	-	\$481,200	-	\$2,524,000
Total	•	\$379,80 0	-	\$1,776,00 0	-	\$2,172,10 0	-	\$1,975,00 0	-	\$6,302,90 0

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Туре	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	287	0	1	0	375	0	138	0	4,951	0	5,752
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	152	0	13	0	165
Protect in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42

Fee w/o State PILT Liability												
Protect in	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Easement												
Enhance	0	1,058	0	22,365	0	125	0	884	0	3,538	0	27,970
Total	0	1,345	0	22,366	0	500	0	1,174	0	8,544	0	33,929

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Туре	Metro / Urba n (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Fores t / Prairi e (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Fore st (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairi e (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Fore st (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Tot al (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	\$834,600	-	\$305,30 0	-	\$523,20 0	-	\$226,100	-	\$738,000	-	\$2,627,20 0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$659,000	-	\$325,000	1	\$984,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$167,700	-	\$167,700
Protect in Easeme nt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhanc e	-	\$1,112,40 0	-	\$426,50 0	-	\$103,30 0	-	\$322,100	-	\$559,700	-	\$2,524,00 0
Total	-	\$1,947,0 00	•	\$731,8 00	-	\$626,5 00	-	\$1,207,2 00	-	\$1,790,4 00	-	\$6,302,9 00

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

• Other ~ Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

• Other ~ Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.

Programs in the northern forest region:

Other ~ Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.

Programs in prairie region:

Other ~ Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.

Programs in southeast forest region:

• Other ~ Outcomes are measured and evaluated by the grantee's final report and a monitoring visit.

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

Restore / Enhance Parcels

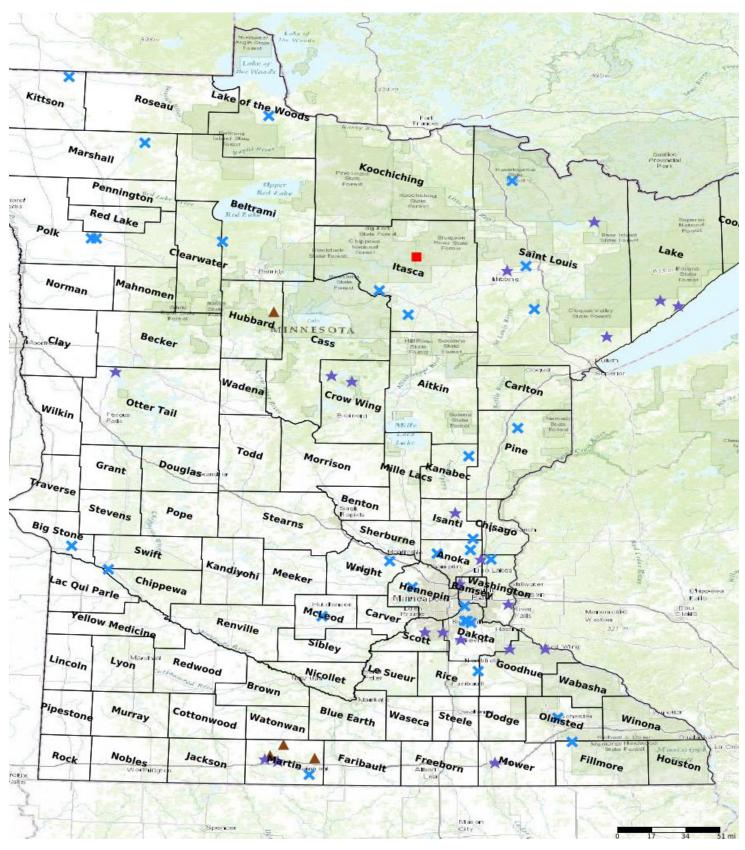
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Anoka Conservation District Martin and Typo Lake Carp Removal	Anoka	03422221	528	\$99,000	Yes
National Wild Turkey Federation Lamprey Pass Deer Protection	Anoka	03222213	22	\$34,425	Yes
Isanti Soil and Water Conservation Distrct Enhancing Rum River shore habitat with revetments	Anoka	03324231	1	\$100,000	Yes
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Carlos Avery Woody Cover Development	Anoka	03322220	50	\$75,000	Yes
MN Prairie Chicken Society Enhanced Grassland Management 2017	Becker	11943201	20,385	\$220,827	Yes
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Bemidji Area STGR Habitat Enhancement	Clearwater	14935219	290	\$42,364	Yes
Rollie Johnson Natural and Recreational Area Rollie Johnson Islands Restoration 3	Crow Wing	13728217	57	\$18,000	Yes
Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District Pine River:Fish Passage Project	Crow Wing	13727234	2	\$89,028	Yes
Dakota County Parks Miesville Bluff Restoration Phase II	Dakota	11317225	131	\$400,000	Yes
Friends of the Mississippi River Dakota and Washington County Restorations	Dakota	11519216	48	\$89,369	Yes
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Org South Creek Stream Habitat Restoration	Dakota	11420235	3	\$258,229	Yes
Dakota County Jensen Lake Enhancement Phase II	Dakota	02723234	112	\$257,400	Yes
Dakota County Parks Dakota Lake: Forest, Woodland, and Savanna	Dakota	02723235	65	\$221,000	Yes
Pheasants Forever Fillmore County WMA Enhancements	Fillmore	10412206	100	\$50,000	Yes
City of Red Wing Red Wing Prairie and Oak Savanna Restorations	Goodhue	11314229	244	\$123,192	Yes
Hennepin County HCPW Ecological Restoration	Hennepin	11823210	43	\$49,609	Yes
Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District High Meadows Rum River Re-meander	Isanti	03623208	6	\$206,046	Yes
Ruffed Grouse Society Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Habitat Enhancement	Itasca	14525229	1,199	\$228,073	Yes
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Cass & Itasca Co Oak Enhancement	Itasca	05426215	300	\$29,893	Yes
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society EC Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #1	Kanabec	04122204	613	\$49,997	Yes
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Thief Lake/Karlstad Prescribed Burning	Kittson	16346212	279	\$46,463	Yes
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society NC Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #2	Koochiching	16033212	261	\$35,000	Yes
The Nature Conservancy North Shore Browse Protection	Lake	05510212	1,615	\$49,931	Yes
The Nature Conservancy Tending and Completing NE MN Forest Restorations	Lake	05508230	3,006	\$197,695	Yes
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Thief	Marshall	15841236	68	\$48,838	Yes

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Lake/Karlstad Buckthorn Removal					
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin	Martin	10331231	56	\$29,539	Yes
County WMA Grasslands PHASE II					
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin	Martin	10129206	50	\$45,649	Yes
County WMA Tree Removal PHASE II					
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Martin	Martin	10332229	7	\$50,000	Yes
County WMA Wetlands PHASE II					
Pheasants Forever McLeod County WMA	McLeod	11629235	95	\$44,330	Yes
Enhancements					
Friends of the Hormel Nature Center Hormel	Mower	10317231	75	\$146,520	Yes
Nature Center Critical Habitat Restoration					
RNeighbors Quarry Hill Silver Creek Urban	Olmsted	10713231	25	\$30,910	Yes
Corridor					
Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District	Otter Tail	13742217	1	\$305,255	Yes
Fish Lake Dam Rock Arch Rapids Fishway				,	
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society EC	Pine	04419222	206	\$49,977	Yes
Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement #2				4 7	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hybrid Cattail	Polk	14944222	1,325	\$43,010	Yes
Reduction Effort	TOIK	11711222	1,525	Ψ15,010	103
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Woody	Polk	14944224	308	\$45,000	Yes
Vegetation Reduction Effort	1 OIK	14744224	300	Ψ13,000	103
Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Long	Ramsey	03023220	25	\$25,000	Yes
Lake Oak Woodland Restoration Project	Kainsey	03023220	25	\$25,000	res
,	D	02022222	210	¢1.60.000	V
City of Saint Paul, Dept of Parks and	Ramsey	02823222	210	\$168,000	Yes
Recreation Crosby Farm Floodplain Forest					
Enhancement Phase 2	D:	44440005	4.45	# F0.000	***
Cannon River Watershed Partnership Prairie	Rice	11119225	445	\$50,000	Yes
Creek WMA, Grassland Mgmt	2	11100000		#0400	**
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District	Scott	11422209	4	\$24,000	Yes
Raymond Park Habitat Restoration Project					
Three Rivers Park District Murphy Southern	Scott	11421210	200	\$353,100	Yes
Savanna Woodland					
North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation	St. Louis	05820213	204	\$45,351	Yes
District North St. Louis Conifer Enhancement					
South St Louis Soil & Water Conservation	St. Louis	05213216	1	\$121,728	Yes
District French River Headwaters AMA Fish					
Passage Project					
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Orr Area	St. Louis	06619215	156	\$21,157	Yes
Wildlife Openings					
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Tower	St. Louis	06214202	60	\$10,250	Yes
Rock Outcrop Management					
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Winter	St. Louis	05818205	226	\$30,750	Yes
Conifer Cover Establishment		<u> </u>			
Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society NE	St. Louis	05518235	287	\$49,938	Yes
Sharp-tailed Grouse Habitat Enhancement					
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal	Stevens	12145203	115	\$49,715	Yes
Wetlands Cattail Control III				,	
Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District	Washington	03221215	1	\$30,600	Yes
Shields Lake Fish Barrier				, -	
Belwin Conservancy Valley Creek Project	Washington	02820216	33	\$139,957	Yes
Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust Seasonal	Wright	12124231	179	\$109,857	Yes
Wetand Cattail Control IV	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1		,,	
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Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Northern Waters Land Trust Hubbard County	Hubbard	14332228	13	\$324,986	No
Tullibee Refuge Acquisition					
The Conservation Fund Chippewa National	Itasca	05925207	42	\$167,704	No

Forest, Dagg Property					
Martin County Conservation Club, Inc. Findley	Martin	10329221	116	\$375,922	No
Addition to Center Creek WMA					
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Rooney	Martin	10332215	18	\$127,478	No
Run WMA acquisition					
Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. Gleam	Martin	10431216	18	\$155,634	No
WMA acquisition					



Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other

Parcel Map Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Phase VIII: Statewide and Metro Habitat (Data Generated From Parcel List)